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Government Right To 'Lie' Questioned At Conference

BOCA RATON — "A government that too readily rationalizes its right to lie in crises, will never lack lies or crises." Thus spoke Rabbi Isaac Neuman, yesterday, to some 500 people attending the first World Community Conference to be conducted under the auspices of Marymount College. Rabbi Neuman spent four years in concentration camps during WW II, part of this time at Auschwitz.

In his comments on "Pacem in Terris," he stressed Pope John's theme that every human being is a person and as such is entitled to certain rights. However, he said, the Communists are not alone in their disdain for human personality, which they justify on the grounds of dialectical materialism. We know what is right, yet do wrong.

He gave a number of examples of lies told by our government, such as the U-2 affair, the CIA in Indonesia, and the list of Communists who were supposed to have been involved in the uprising in the Dominican Republic last year. He added, "fortunately, in a democracy, there is always some newspaperman who will dig out the facts, no matter who is interested in hiding them."

INSTEAD OF AID

Instead of foreign aid, Rabbi Neuman suggested the U.S.: Allocate funds to our sphere of influence with the understanding that the Russians do the same in their sphere of influence; Outlaw atomic war; Settle the Viet Nam issue through the U.N. with representatives of the Viet Cong participating; Invite Red China to join the U.N. We cannot expect an outlaw to become a member of society if he is barred from it; Re-es-

tablish the integrity and reputation of our government agencies and spokesmen by telling the truth; Establish a system of international law and consider the U.N. as if it were already a world government; Until atomic weapons are outlawed, adopt an exchange of students, at least 100,000, children of leading families of both sides going to study in countries on the other side; Adopt a system of exchange of ideas by TV satellites so spokesmen could be heard from both sides debating the issues.

THE KEY

Rabbi Neuman believes our system will triumph over any "ism" provided that we are consistent, provided that our actions coincide with our words. "The key to peace for a troubled mankind is truth, justice, freedom and love."

Another advocate of non-violence, Rev. Philip Berrigan, S.S.J., spoke out against our policy in Viet Nam, as well as our treatment of the American Negro. "The American Negroes rush to be a part of this nation; the Vietnamese rush to be free of it, yet our response to both is violent. Communism is not the issue at all. It becomes a threat only when we violate the rights of others."

Fr. Berrigan, curate of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in Baltimore, is a member of the recently organized American section — Committee of Conscience on Viet Nam. This committee is sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a nonprofit religious group dedicated to solving international conflicts through non-violence.

The conference has its last session today.